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## **Minutes**

### **Commission on Disability Concerns**

### **September 18, 2007**

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**Minutes of the Commission on Disability Concerns meeting held on September 18, 2007, 7:00 p.m., at the Tempe Public Library, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Paul Bennewitz, Frank Emery, Matthew Jellison, Nora Nunez, Larry Randall, Darrell Shandrow, Janie Shelton, Jacque Olsen, Linda Bergevin, Tom Ringhofer

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Mason Murphy

**Staff Present:**

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Manager  
Karl Stephens, ADA Accessibility Specialist

**Guests present:**

Diane Bennett, Tempe Community Council

Meeting convened at 7:02 p.m. In Chair Janie Shelton called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Frank Emery moved that the amended minutes from July 2007 be approved. Commissioner Nora Nunez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Appearances:**

ASU student – class assignment to observe a Commission meeting

**Earned Income Tax Credit**

Chair Janie Shelton introduced Diane Bennett, Tempe Community Council, to discuss Earned Income Tax Credit Program

- The Tempe Earned Income Tax Credit and Asset Development Initiative, a partnership of Tempe Community Council, City of Tempe, Newtown Community Development Corporation, Tempe Schools Credit Union and the IRS, is designed to help low and moderate income individuals and families increase their economic self-sufficiency and ultimately become homeowners in our community.
- One of the most effective ways of creating public awareness about the Earned Income Tax Credit and other federal tax credits programs is through word of mouth. Diane Bennett encouraged the commission to help spread the word. Education classes are offered in both English and Spanish.
- Money Smart for Homeownership is a program offering information on the home buying process. It provides information on what lenders are looking for, how much you can afford, and assistance with down payment for homes in Tempe. Money Smart is program sponsored by Newtown. Newtown Community Development Corporation

(Newtown) develops affordable homes through its Community Land Trust Program and helps prepare first time homebuyers for homeownership.

#### **ADA Accessibility Specialist**

- Commissioner Larry Randall introduced Karl Stephens to the commission as the city's new ADA Accessibility Specialist. Karl provided a brief overview of his background.

#### **Vial of Life Update**

- Commissioner Larry Randall reported meeting with the Police Department and the Diversity Office to review the status of the program. At the request of the Police Department, the Vial of Life information card will be amended to include a question about mental health clinical services. The form will also be translated in English and Spanish to better serve our community. Tempe Saint Lukes is making the final edits to the Vial of Life information card and will then forward the form to the Diversity Office for translation.

#### **Report from the Child-Ability Committee**

- Commissioner Linda Bergevin suggested creating a survey to better assess the needs of Tempe families who have children with disabilities. The idea is to create a survey and work with the local schools to distribute and collect the information. Chair Jaine Shelton suggested outlining the proposal and bringing it back to the Commission in October for approval.

#### **Report from the Committee on Architectural Accessibility**

- Commissioner Ringhofer suggested expanding the membership of this subcommittee to help move forward with the proposed initiative. Commissioner Matthew Jellison offered to join the subcommittee.

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee Update**

No report. The committee has a preliminary meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2007 with the Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, Frank Granillo. This committee would like the City of Tempe to adopt supplementary ADA rules. Implementing these rules would require wheelchair lifts on the docks on Tempe Town Lake, wider sidewalks, special egress/ingress rules, etc.

#### **Diversity/ADA Office Update**

Staff Rosa Inchausti made the following announcements:

- The City Manager Forum for Board and Commissioners will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2007 at the Northside Police Auditorium, 120 E 5<sup>th</sup> St from 8pm to 10:30pm.
- Tempe Tardeada reception will be held at Tempe Community Complex, Friday, October 12, 2007 at 6pm. All commission members will receive an invitation in the mail.
- All commissioners have been registered on the adapted recreation listserv and should be receiving updates. Any commissioners not receiving this information are to contact staff for assistance.
- The City has launched a formal Board and Commission orientation training. Staff will email the commission the dates to sign up for the training.

#### **Topics for Future Meetings:**

Staff Karl Stephens asked the commission to email any topics or ideas on guest speakers for future commission meetings. Some topics suggested include: Scholarships for the Disability Awards, Dial-A-Ride, and Lightrail. Incidentally, the Disability Awards Committee meeting is

scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 3:30pm. The commission would like these topics on the agenda for the October meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:46 PM

Prepared by: Andrea Groves

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

  
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Staff Liaison Karl Stephens